

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**George C. Marshall Space Flight Center**

Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



January 20, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (AMM)

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**FROM:** LS01/ James R. Frees

**SUBJECT:** Approval for MSFC Employees with External Relations  
Responsibilities to Attend the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Gala  
Celebration

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees with external relations responsibilities have been invited to attend the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) Gala Celebration, sponsored by the USSRC, scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2010, at the USSRC Davidson Center for Space Exploration.

The USSRC is an agency of the State of Alabama, and is the visitor information center for Marshall Space Flight Center. The USSRC is committed to educating the public about the history of the U.S. Space Program and the work being done at MSFC.

The purpose of the event is to salute the men and women who worked in the 1960s Apollo manned missions and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century team that seeks to put the U.S. back on the moon as part of the Constellation Program. The dinner program will also include a tribute to the Apollo 13 mission, which celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2010.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives and local elected officials, as well as academic, business and other community leaders. Besides these MSFC employees and their spouses, invitees include representatives from the U.S. Army, officials from the cities of Huntsville and Madison, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, members of the Alabama congressional delegation and the Madison County legislative delegation. Also attending the event will be several astronauts from the Apollo era. The event is valued at \$150.00 per person of which \$65 is the cost of the meal and gift; and \$85 is considered tax deductible. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

The MSFC Center Director; Associate Center Director; Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications (OSAC) External Relations Supervisor, Protocol Team Lead, and

Protocol Specialist have been invited to attend this event. MSFC personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to USSRC.

These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have external relations responsibilities that could significantly influence current or future agreements with USSRC or could significantly affect the interests of USSRC.

I have determined that free attendance of these individuals at the event is in the interests of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of these NASA officials at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these individuals attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

The USSRC is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Annette Metcalf Coffel at 256-544-0025.

  
James R. Frees  
Acting Chief Counsel